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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 14 September 1948

SUBJECT Collaboration between Communist and Left-Wing
Liberals in Colombia

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letter of 16 October 1975 from the
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1. At a meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) on 26 August 1948 Pablo Balcazar, editor of the PCC newspaper Vanguardia del Pueblo, reported on collaboration between the Party and the left-wing Liberals.
2. In this connection, the PCC is supporting a bill presented in Congress by Senator Parmenio Cardenas by which sentences imposed by the Military Courts for participation in the 9 April uprising would be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the nation. The Cardenas bill also proposes the suspension of the trials now being held.
3. The PCC has a personal interest in the passage of this bill, since among those to be judged by a court martial in Bogota are Victor Bohorquez, Argemiro Alvarez, and Luis A. Chavez, Party members, and UNDECOM (Communications Union) leaders. These individuals are accused of having incited the Telecommunications employees against the Government on 9 April 1948. PCC leaders fear that the imprisonment of these three leaders might seriously weaken Party influence in the UNDECOM.
4. In opposition to the Cardenas bill the Conservative Party has indicated its desire to present a bill granting amnesty to those arrested for political crimes in the April revolt. Although the latter bill would seem to be the more favorable, the leftist Liberals and the Communists are supporting the Cardenas bill for the following reasons:
 - a. The proposed amnesty would be granted only to those guilty of political and not common crimes, but the line of differentiation is difficult to draw.
 - b. The passage of an amnesty bill would require a two-thirds vote of Congress, whereas the Cardenas bill would only require a congressional majority. Both the leftist Liberals and the Communists fear that in the actual voting sufficient Conservative Congressmen would vote against the amnesty to prevent its passage. On the other hand, the Liberal Party majority is sufficient to pass the Cardenas bill.
 - c. There is also a question as to the constitutional legality of the granting of amnesty.
5. It was also pointed out at the meeting of the Executive Committee that

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collaboration with the Liberal Party must be not only on the national level, but on the Departmental and Municipal levels as well. The Party hopes to exert increasing influence over the leftist Liberals on the Municipal committees. As an example of what could be done, it was pointed out that Gabriel Munoz Uribe, President of the Liberal Party committee for the city of Bogota, is a Communist, although at the suggestion of the Central Committee he withdrew from the Party a year ago. It was agreed that, as an acknowledged Communist, Munoz would not have been able to obtain his present great influence in Bogota where the leftist Liberal Party faction is exceptionally strong.

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